

Washington, DC - Today, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (CA-39) recognized the Long Beach Unified School District's for its America's Best Urban School System award. The Congresswoman said she is proud to represent Long Beach in our nation's capital. Sánchez' statement was submitted for the Congressional Record. The statement is below:

"On September 22nd, the Long Beach Unified School District received the Broad Prize for Urban Education, which is awarded to the most outstanding school district in the country. This year the Long Beach Unified School District is America's Best Urban School System.

The Long Beach Unified School District was selected from five national finalists by a panel of 12 national leaders in the education, government, business and nonprofit sectors, including Boeing CEO Phil Condit, Florida Governor Jeb Bush and former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros.

The Broad Prize for Urban Education is the largest national education award and is synonymous with the Nobel Prize for schools. The Prize is awarded annually to urban school districts making the greatest overall improvement in student achievement while at the same time reducing achievement gaps across ethnic groups and between various incomes. The winning district receives a cash award of \$500,000 that goes towards scholarships for students to attend college or other post-secondary training.

Throughout the year, the Long Beach Unified School District will be highlighted and used as a model so that districts across the country can learn from their success. This will allow other school districts to replicate Long Beach's innovative teaching and educational strategies, thus extending their example and impact.

Long Beach's strength comes from their ability to evaluate and adapt its programs to meet the needs of specific students. This is no easy feat, considering that the Long Beach Unified School District is the third largest school district in California, serving 96,000 students. It also serves, according to U.S. Census, the most ethnically diverse city in the nation with 46 different languages spoken by local students.

I commend the hard working teachers and school administrators of Long Beach for their contributions and commitment to our young people. I also would like to recognize the parents and our community for supporting the Long Beach Unified School District's efforts to help every child reach its full potential.

Education has always been tied to the promise of equality and opportunity for all and Long Beach Unified School District is an institution that gives every student an equal chance to succeed. Congratulations to the Long Beach Unified School District for this incredible achievement!"